

September 15, 2021

Montour County Commissioners  
433 East Front St  
Danville, PA 17821

Dear Commissioners Holdren, Hartman, and Finn:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), I am writing in support of Northumberland County's sponsorship of an independent, dedicated community college serving the four-county region. DCED supports the vision for a community college that will be an anchor institution for economic growth, cultural enrichment, civic participation, and regional pride.

Some of the key statistics supporting the establishment of an independent, local community college are:

- There are 11,000 current job openings in the Central PA region; only a dedicated regional community college can manage the training demand for employers in the region.
- 85% of part-time community college students are working in their communities and raising their families
- 94% of all community college students **remain** in PA after graduation/completion
- Local sponsorship generates a minimum 400% return: for every \$1 invested at the county level, \$4 flow into the region.
- The regional wealth-building economic impact of a community college annually exceeds \$50 million.
- For every \$1 invested by the county sponsors, a community college returns about \$13 in tax revenue.
- The establishment of this institution will bring **\$78.5 million of economic growth** to the region over its first 10 years based on the recent economic study by EMSI.

DCED respectfully urges you, as Montour County Commissioners, to sponsor a new independent Susquehanna Valley community college as described in the PA Code Title 24 Article XIX. Please sign a formal Resolution of Sponsorship and submit an application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a new Susquehanna Valley Community College.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Kilko  
Deputy Secretary, Business Finance and Workforce Development  
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

cc: Meghan Beck, President, Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project